



Docket No.: S3100.0003/P0003  
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Toru Ishii et al.

Application No.: 09/760,593

Filed: January 16, 2001

Art Unit: 3724

For: PUNCHING APPARATUS AND THE  
PUNCHING UNIT THEREOF

Examiner: P. H. Nguyen

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Timing of Filing of the Information Disclosure Statement:

- ☐ This IDS is being filed before the First Office Action<sup>1</sup>.
- ☒ This IDS is being filed after the issuance of the First Office Action but before the issuance of a Final Office Action<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The IDS should, where possible, include a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e).

<sup>2</sup> The IDS *must* include *either* a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) *or* the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

- ☐ This IDS is being filed after the issuance of a Final Office Action but before the payment of the Final Fee<sup>3</sup>.

**Certifications:**

If checked, the undersigned makes the following statement(s):

- ☐ Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e):

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement; or

No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

- ☐ Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d):

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

**Fee Required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2) or 1.97(d)(2):**

- ☒ If checked, the fee of \$180.00 set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is attached.

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<sup>3</sup> The IDS *must* include *both* a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) *and* the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

**Copies of Information:**

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a), the following are enclosed:

- ☒ A legible copy<sup>4</sup> of each document (or relevant portion thereof) is cited in the attached PTO/SB/08.
- ☒ With respect to any information which is not in English, a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, is attached. This concise explanation is provided by way of:
  - ☐ A translation of the relevant portions of the non-English language information<sup>5</sup>;
  - ☐ A statement explaining the relevant portions of the non-English language information;
  - ☒ A copy [and, where not in the English language, a translation] of at least the relevant portion(s)<sup>6</sup> of the communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application in which the information was cited; or
  - ☐ This information is contained in the specification of the present application.

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<sup>4</sup> A legible copy of the document is not required if (1) the information was previously cited by, or submitted to, the Office and considered by the Office in a prior U.S. application to which this application claims priority, provided that the prior application is properly identified in this IDS, and (2) the IDS submitted in the earlier application complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a) – (c). This exception does not apply to information cited in an International Application.

<sup>5</sup> 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)(ii) *requires* that an English language translation be provided when a translation of the document, or portion thereof, “is within the possession, custody or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c).”

<sup>6</sup> The relevant portion is that portion which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office. This may be an explanation of which portion of the of the reference is particularly relevant, to which claims it applies, or merely an “X”, “Y”, or “A” indication on a search report. MPEP §609 III A(3).

☐ In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d), copies of the cited documents are not enclosed as they were provided in application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, which the present application relies upon for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120.

**Materiality:**

Whether or not the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement is "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

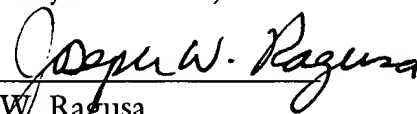
In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

In the event the actual fee is inadvertently not enclosed or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the underpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

Dated: April 30, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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Previously-cited

PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U. S. Patent and Trademark Office: U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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<b>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	09/760,593
				Filing Date	January 16, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Toru Ishii
				Art Unit	3725
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	X2850.0044/P044

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	A	JP-03-277411 (Abstract)	21-09-1991	Seikosha Co Ltd.		

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
	B		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.



PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)  
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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>C mplete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	09/760,593-Conf. #4296
				Filing Date	January 16, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Toru Ishii
				Art Unit	3724
				Examiner Name	P. H. Nguyen
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	S3100.0003/P0003

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	BA	-JP 08-071990 (w/English abstract)	03-19-1996			
	BB	-JP 03-239498 (w/English abstract)	10-25-1991			

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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
	CA	Copy of Notice of Reasons for Rejection dated April 22, 2003 (and English translation of same)	

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<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.